



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
PRE-BOARD 1 EXAMINATION (2024-25)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE(184)

CLASS: X
DATE: 11/01/2025

MAX. MARKS: 80
TIME: 3 HOURS

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections –
 - Section – A: Reading Skills
 - Section – B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section – C: Literature Textbook
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A
READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

1. Read the following text.

(10)

- (1) As board exams approach, students often encounter increased levels of stress and anxiety, making it essential to prioritize their health and well-being. A balanced diet is crucial during this time, as the right nutrition contributes significantly to brain function and overall health. Students should focus on consuming a variety of whole foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins. These foods are packed with nutrients that support cognitive performance, while healthy snacks like nuts and yogurt help maintain energy levels and concentration throughout long study sessions.
- (2) Staying hydrated is another vital aspect of maintaining student health. Water plays a critical role in keeping the brain functioning optimally, and even mild dehydration can lead to fatigue and difficulties in concentrating. Students are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially during study periods. By staying well-hydrated, students enhance their mental clarity and ability to retain information, ultimately supporting their exam preparation.
- (3) Incorporating regular physical activity is important for managing stress and improving mood during exam season. Exercise releases endorphins, which create feelings of happiness and relaxation. Aiming for at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days can also boost memory and cognitive function. Simple activities like walking, dancing, or practicing yoga can provide both physical and mental benefits, helping students recharge during intense study periods.
- (4) Adequate sleep is crucial for effective exam preparation, as it directly influences memory retention and focus. Students should strive for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night. Establishing a consistent sleep schedule and developing a calming bedtime routine can significantly improve sleep quality. A well-rested mind is more alert, making it easier to absorb information and perform efficiently on exams.
- (5) In addition to health tips, effective study strategies are key components of academic success. Creating a realistic study schedule that allocates appropriate time to each subject can help students manage their workload without feeling overwhelmed. Active learning techniques, such as summarizing information, creating flashcards, or teaching concepts to peers can reinforce understanding and retention. Regular practice with past exam papers can also familiarize students with question formats and build confidence.

- (6) Finally, students can benefit from forming study groups, as discussing topics with peers offers new perspectives and clarifies doubts. Balancing study with relaxation is equally important to avoid burnout. By setting realistic goals and taking time for hobbies, students can maintain motivation and enthusiasm throughout their preparation. Overall, prioritizing health and employing effective study strategies can significantly enhance students' performance during board exams.

Created for Academic Usage / 417 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase “students should focus on consuming a variety of whole foods” emphasize? 1
- II. Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. (paragraph 6) 1
The phrase “balancing study with relaxation is equally important to avoid burnout” suggests that:
 - a) students can improve performance by dividing time between studying and leisure activities.
 - b) students must prioritize relaxation over studying to achieve better exam results.
- III. Support the writer's idea that staying hydrated can enhance exam preparation. (paragraph 2) 2
- IV. Select the option that best reflects the concept of ‘regular physical activity’ in student life. (paragraph 3) 1
 - a) Engaging in sports with friends leads to improved social connections and teamwork.
 - b) Exercising regularly to relieve stress and boost cognitive function, positively affecting exam performance.
- V. State whether the following statement is True or False. (paragraph 4) 1
Adequate sleep has no impact on memory retention and focus.
- VI. The writer mentions ‘active learning techniques’ in paragraph 5. Which of the following is an example of an active learning technique? 1
 - A. Reading textbooks passively without note-taking.
 - B. Creating flashcards to reinforce understanding of the material.
 - C. Watching videos online without engagement.
 - D. Listening to lectures without asking questions.
- VII. List two benefits that students can gain from participating in study groups. (paragraph 6) 2
- VIII. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. In the phrase ‘setting realistic goals,’ the word ‘realistic’ refers to ----- . (paragraph 6) 1
 - A. goals that are excessively ambitious and difficult to achieve
 - B. goals that are unfeasible and do not challenge the student
 - C. achievable goals that consider the student's capacity and resources
 - D. goals set without time constraints or specific outcomes in mind

2. Read the following text.

(10)

- (1) The global plastic waste crisis is one of the most pressing environmental challenges today. An estimated 300 million tons of plastic waste are produced each year, with only 9% being recycled, while 12% is incinerated, and the remaining 79% accumulates in landfills or the natural environment. Of this, over 8 million tons enter the oceans annually, impacting marine ecosystems.
- (2) Plastic pollution in oceans has increased dramatically over the past 50 years. By 2050, it is estimated that the amount of plastic in the ocean will outweigh all the fish. More than 100,000 marine animals, including turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, die each year due to plastic ingestion or entanglement. Microplastics, particles less than 5mm in size, have been found in over 90% of seabirds and 100% of sea turtles tested.

- (3) Several countries have implemented bans on single-use plastics, such as plastic bags and straws. Recycling rates have increased in some regions, but the overall recycling rate remains low. Europe recycles around 30% of its plastic waste, while in the U.S., only 9% of plastic waste is recycled.
- (4) Innovative solutions such as chemical recycling, which breaks plastic down to its original components, and biodegradable alternatives are being developed. Research on plastic-eating microbes, which can naturally degrade plastics, is ongoing and offers promising results. These technologies could potentially reduce the amount of plastic that remains in the environment.
- (5) Experts predict that without significant global intervention, plastic pollution could triple by 2040, severely impacting ecosystems, food chains, and human health.

Created for Academic Usage / 252 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- I. What does the use of the phrase “pressing environmental challenges” by the writer, in paragraph 1, suggest about the plastic waste crisis? 1
 - A. The writer is emphasizing the urgency and severity of the plastic waste crisis.
 - B. The writer believes plastic waste is a manageable problem.
 - C. The writer thinks plastic waste is no longer a concern.
 - D. The writer is indifferent to the problem.
- II. Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1

Assertion (A): Plastic pollution in oceans has significantly increased over the past 50 years.

Reason (R): Over 8 million tons of plastic enter the oceans annually.

 - A. Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - B. Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
 - C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
 - D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- III. Identify the word that indicates that the writer anticipates a worsening situation regarding plastic pollution. (paragraph 5) 1
- IV. According to the passage, what are two key impacts of plastic waste on marine environments? 1
- V. Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank: 1

Countries like the U.S. and Europe have taken steps to improve recycling rates, but overall success remains limited. The percentage of plastic waste recycled globally is ____ (9% / 12% / 30%).
- VI. What are some of the innovative methods mentioned in the passage that are being developed to reduce plastic waste? 1
- VII. Complete the sentence suitably. 1

Plastic pollution has dramatically increased in the oceans and by 2050, _____.
- VIII. Complete the following with a suitable reason: 1

The most likely reason the writer believes that innovative technologies can help mitigate plastic pollution is that they can -----.
- IX. In the context of the passage, why is addressing plastic pollution critical for the future of ecosystems and human health? 2

SECTION B: GRAMMAR & WRITING SKILLS

(20 marks)

GRAMMAR (10)

3. Complete ANY TEN of the following twelve tasks, as directed. **10**

- I. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket for the given portion of a letter: 1

Dear Sir

I ordered a laptop Dell XPS 13 from your online store with Order No.12345 on 15th October 20XX. I have been working on it without any issues since I ----- (receive) it, but recently, the screen has started flickering.

- II. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction: 1
The committee have decided to postpone the meeting until next week.

Use the given format for your response:

ERROR	CORRECTION

- III. Rohan asked the following question to his manager, Priya. Report Rohan's question correctly. 1
Are you available for a meeting next week?

- IV. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an official announcement. 1
Attention all students,
Please be informed that the results for the final exams will be declared on----- (that/ these/ this) date.

- V. Read Aditi's reply to her supervisor regarding the project deadline. 1
I'm sorry for the delay, sir. I will submit the report by the end of the day. Report Aditi's reply by completing the following sentence correctly.

Aditi apologised for the delay and said _____.

- VI. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line from a news article: 1

Many of the employees was unhappy with the new policy.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	was	were
B	of the	the
C	unhappy	happy
D	Many	Much

- VII. Complete the given announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank. 1
We are excited to announce that our school choir has _____ first place in the regional competition.

A. achieved B. achieving C. achieve D. achieves

- VIII. Read the given sentence from a movie review article. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. 1

The movie doesn't let you rest and is packed with engaged action sequences.

Use the given format for your response:

ERROR	CORRECTION

- IX. Report the dialogue between a coach and a player by completing the sentence. 1
Coach: Did you practise your skills for the game?

Player: Yes, I practised every day!

The coach asked if the player had practised his skills for the game, to which the player _____.

- X. Employees _____ attend the mandatory training sessions, as it is crucial for their professional development. 1

A. can B. might
C. must D. should

- XI. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a management guide. 1
The team should review the project details before _____ any changes.
A. make B. making C. makes D. made
- XII. Read the conversation about technology between a teacher and a student. 1
Teacher: How do you think technology affects our daily lives?
Sam: I think it makes life easier but also creates distractions.
Report the student's response by completing the following.
The student stated that technology makes life easier but also _____.

WRITING (10)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4A. You are Rohan /Reshmi, a resident of 242, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Write a letter in about 100-120 words to the Director of the Air Quality Management Cell at the Ministry of Environment, New Delhi, highlighting the serious impact of air pollution in urban areas. Suggest measures for improving air quality through community participation and government initiatives. 5

OR

4B. Drinking water is becoming a rare commodity. Industrial development is filling our rivers, seas, and oceans with toxic pollutants which are a major threat to human health. You are deeply saddened to see water pollution as an appalling problem, which is powerful enough to lead the world on a path of destruction. Write a letter to the editor of The Express News in about 100-120 words to make the public aware of the causes of water pollution and suggest measures to prevent water pollution. You are Parul/Pranav, C-316, Jaswant Lane, New Delhi. 5

5A. Study the table below, which shows the data on the types of extracurricular activities chosen by students in a school. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words analyzing the preferences for extracurricular activities among boys and girls. 5

Activities	Boys	Girls
Outdoor Sports	60%	30%
Creative Arts	20%	55%
Reading	25%	40%
Gaming	40%	15%
Social Activities	30%	25%

OR

5B. You are the Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. You decided to make the school population aware of the advantages of tree plantation and tell them how trees can serve as better air-conditioners. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words. Take the help of the cues given below. 5

Cues:

- ❖ Trees keep the environment cool
- ❖ Take heat of earth and air
- ❖ Absorb carbon dioxide that helps in controlling temperature rise
- ❖ Bring rains
- ❖ Provide shade

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

- A. "The train pulled out of the station. Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories but, at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery. It was green, green everywhere. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before.

Then the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures.” (Glimpses of India – Tea from Assam)

- I. State any one inference about Rajvir from the given context: 1
 “Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at that moment he was keen on looking at the beautiful scenery.”
- II. In the extract, what does the contrast between Rajvir’s interest in detective stories and his attention to the scenery suggest about his character? 1
 A. He is easily distracted by new experiences.
 B. He prefers adventure over tranquility.
 C. He has a deep appreciation for nature despite his usual interests.
 D. He feels overwhelmed by the beauty around him.
- III. People who live in big cities are always fascinated by the natural beauty and abundant greenery. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. 2
- IV. Which phrase/word would best replace ‘doll-like figures’ in the given sentence from the extract? 1
 Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures. (miniature figures/delicate forms)

OR

- B. “The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes; and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn’t want to go for walks, didn’t want to do anything. I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalised for about a fortnight to be kept under observation.” (A Triumph of Surgery)
- I. Which of the following is not a reason why Mr. Herriot thinks Tricki needs to be taken out of the house for a period? 1
 A. He wanted to keep Tricki away from Mrs. Pumphrey for a period of time.
 B. He wanted to keep Tricki under observation.
 C. He wanted to experiment on Tricki.
 D. He wanted to improve Tricki’s health.
- II. What was the main reason for Mrs. Pumphrey to be distraught? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- III. State True or False: 1
 When Mr. Herriot says, “I had made my plans in advance” – what he actually means is, he had already seen this trauma coming for Tricki.
- IV. Which of the following best describes Mrs. Pumphrey? 1
 A. unkind and inconsiderate B. impractical but compassionate
 C. anxious and ambitious D. fearful but confident

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

- A. “Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
 And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.
 But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
 Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
 With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
 He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.”

(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

- I. Fill in the blank with one word. 1
Custard's tail is compared to _____ in the extract, highlighting its loud and clashing nature.
- II. Which of the following best describes Custard's actions in the extract? 1
 - A. He is timid and fearful.
 - B. He is aggressive and confrontational.
 - C. He is indifferent and passive.
 - D. He is playful and mischievous.
- III. What does the phrase "little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed" imply about Blink's actions? 1
- IV. Identify and discuss the use of simile in the phrase "snorting like an engine." How does this device affect the reader's understanding of Custard's behaviour? Answer in about 40 words. 2

OR

- B. "He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass."

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

- I. Fill in the blank with one word. 1
The tiger's perceived feelings of confinement are symbolized by his movement in the _____.
- II. How does the phrase "He should be lurking in shadow" reflect the natural instincts of the tiger? 1
- III. Analyze the use of personification in the phrase "In his quiet rage." What does this device reveal about the tiger's emotional state? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- IV. The imagery in the line "On pads of velvet quiet" suggests which of the following about the tiger's movements? 1
 - A. They are loud and intimidating.
 - B. They are smooth and stealthy.
 - C. They are clumsy and awkward.
 - D. They are energetic and rapid.

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each. 4x3=12

- A. Natalya is obstinate and argumentative. Give two examples from the play highlighting her nature. (The Proposal)
- B. Mij proved to be a lively and playful companion. Discuss this with reference to the lesson 'Mijbil the Otter.'
- C. Reflecting on the chapter 'His First Flight,' discuss the meaning of the saying, "Every journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."
- D. The Ball Poem initially appears simple, but it is quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of 'The Ball Poem'.
- E. In every alternate stanza, Amanda drifts into fantasy and yearns for more freedom and silence. Justify and elaborate on the reason. (Amanda)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6

- A. Was there any balcony outside the window? What role does it play in the story, 'The Midnight Visitor'?
- B. "Intentions always do not justify actions." Analyze this quote with reference to 'A Question of Trust'.
- C. Richard's mother had a great influence on him. How did his mother help him?

(The Making of a Scientist)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

1x6=6

- A. 'The Sermon at Benares' and 'A Letter to God' explore the theme of loss in different ways. Compare how Kisa Gotami and Lencho experienced and responded to their losses. How do their reactions reflect their understanding of life, and what lessons do the stories teach about coping with loss? Write your answer in 100-120 words.

OR

- B. Anne Frank in 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' demonstrate resilience and an indomitable spirit in their respective stories. Compare how these young girls, despite their differing situations and circumstances, exhibited courage and determination. What do their actions reveal about the strength of the human spirit in overcoming challenges? Write your answer in 100-120 words.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

1x6=6

- A. How does Bholi's journey from an insecure girl to a confident woman illustrate the transformative power of education? In what ways does her story of self-transformation inspire hope and encourage us to uphold our self-respect and dignity? Write your answer in 100-120 words.

(Bholi)

OR

- B. Discuss how the themes of materialism and the desire for social status are portrayed in "The Necklace" by Guy De Maupassant. How do these themes contribute to the story's message about the dangers of vanity and pride? Write your answer in 100-120 words.

*******THE END*******